

through mentoring, music, and a variety of other activities. Reid doesn't sit in an office and direct these programs. He is constantly in engaging individuals and families, and developing new and unique ways to make a difference. Madam Speaker, I urge every one of my colleagues to support their local PAL chapter—the programs available make a big difference in the lives of our young people, and to our overall public safety.

Reid's work with PAL is helped by his work overseeing the School Resource Officers with the King County Sheriff's Office. Reid is efficient and effective at what he does because everyone he encounters knows he means what he says. Reid is a dedicated servant. He's a special man and King County is a better place because of him.

Madam Speaker, I ask this House to join me in thanking Reid for his service and to wish him the very best as he continues to mentor and affect the lives of our promising young people.

FREEDOM FOR PEOPLE OF IRAN

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, June 12, 2009, the Iranian people went to the polls to vote in Iran's tenth presidential election. Today, almost exactly one year later, two things have become much clearer.

First, we have seen just how oppressive and authoritarian the Iranian regime is. When Iranian citizens took to the streets to dispute the results of the election, government officials responded with violence, murdering innocent people like Neda Soltan and assaulting others. Rather than apologizing for these atrocities, President Ahmadinejad dismissed the initial unrest as "not important" and accused foreign media of launching a "psychological war" against Iran. In the months following the election, government officials continued to arrest, torture, and imprison protesters and their family members.

Even now, the government's persecution of pro-democracy demonstrators continues. On May 9, five political prisoners, four of them Kurds, were hung. The following day, the Iranian court sentenced a Newsweek reporter, in absentia, to 13 years in prison. In addition, Amnesty International reported a few weeks ago that 6 more people were sentenced to death for their association with the banned Iranian opposition, or having visited the group's Camp Ashraf, in Iraq.

Second, we have seen just how much the Iranian people desire freedom from the current regime. Despite the threat of injury and even death, Iranian citizens continue to express their displeasure with the current government. In December, Iranian activists participated in demonstrations in Tehran and other cities across the country. When President Ahmadinejad visited Tehran University a month ago, student demonstrators protested.

In light of these events, I recently joined twelve of my colleagues in signing a bi-partisan letter to President Obama, encouraging him to support the Iranian dissidents' efforts and work with international partners to put pressure on Iran.

I am also a co-sponsor of H. Res 704 that has 224 bi-partisan co-sponsors and supports the rights of the Iranian dissident members in Camp Ashraf, Iraq. We must condemn attempts by the Iranian regime and the Al-Maliki Government to harm these Iranian political refugees.

Finally, I praise New Jersey Assemblyman John Bramnick and the teen advocacy program No Nukes for Iran for planning a rally in Trenton on June 10. This event is sponsored by numerous Jewish organizations who wish to raise awareness of the danger a nuclear Iran poses for the citizens of Iran, as well as Israel and the U.S. As a conferee on the Iran Sanctions Conference Committee, I will continue to support prompt, aggressive action to deter Iran's nuclear ambitions. I also praise New Jersey government officials and non-profit groups for divesting pension and annuity funds from companies that do business with Iran's petroleum sector.

I am honored to stand with the thousands of Iranians who have dared to voice their opposition to the current regime and the journalists who have had the courage to cover their actions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CONCORDIA ORIOLES BASEBALL TEAM

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to inform you that on Thursday, June 3, the Concordia High School Orioles baseball team became the 2010 1-A Missouri State Champions. Under Head Coach Nathan Beissenherz and Assistant Coach Brandon Figg, the team finished the season with a 19–3 record. This is the first state championship for any sport in Concordia High School history.

After a 15–3 regular season record, the Orioles defeated Wellington (4–2) in the Class 1–A Sectional and then defeated Liberal (5–2) in Quarterfinal play. This earned the club a trip to the finals in Springfield, Missouri, which was hosted at Drury University's Meador Park. The Orioles then defeated St. Elizabeth (9–3) and played Brashear in the final game. The team played solid defense and took advantage of opportunities in the field and at the plate, which propelled the CHS Orioles baseball team over Brashear (6–1) to win the state championship.

Members of the Concordia Orioles baseball team include: Collin Werths, Drew Smith, Kent Schuette, Dustin Heineken, Alic Frerking, Blake Smith, Tyler Tolias, Blake Heimsoth, Travis Flandermeyer, Jesse Flandermeyer, Carter Brown, Hayden Brown, Jacob Summers, Jacob Harms, Cale Brunkhorst, Zach Wolski, J.R. Langkrah, Chris Latty, Josh Kock, assistant coach Brandon Figg and head coach Nathan Beissenherz.

Madam Speaker, the members of the Concordia High School Orioles baseball team have distinguished themselves as the 2010 Class 1–A Missouri High School Baseball State Champions as well as the first state champions in Concordia High School history. I am sure that my colleagues will join me in wishing Coach Beiz and his team all the best.

HONORING WORKERS WHO PERISHED IN DEEPWATER HORIZON ACCIDENT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1347, which honors the lives of the 11 workers who were tragically killed in the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil platform off the coast of Louisiana. It also commends the rescue workers who courageously responded to the explosion. They showed tremendous strength by risking their lives to save those of others.

I thank Chairman TOWNS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman MELANCON, for honoring the individuals who lost their lives in the explosion. In addition, I would like to commend the Congressman for his commitment to serving the people of South Louisiana and promoting the interests of the Gulf Coast region throughout the many challenges it faces. Congressman MELANCON is a champion of South Louisiana's hard-working people, ecologically unique coastal environment, and nationally cherished culture.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of the 11 individuals who passed away in the explosion. I know that they will be missed by their neighbors, friends, and coworkers, but most of all by their families, who will mourn their loss more than we can imagine. The men who passed away on April 20, 2010, were loving husbands, sons, and brothers. We must offer our support and care to their families in this time of need.

Hopefully, this tragic event can serve as a poignant reminder of the need for strong regulations and workplace protections in the offshore oil and gas industry. Measures must be put in place to ensure that a disaster of this kind never happens again. Offshore oil and gas exploration is a line of work that inevitably carries personal safety risks. However, with frequent safety checks, more stringent regulations, and the implementation of the most modern technologies, we can mitigate these risks and promote the safety and wellbeing of all workers in the industry.

In addition to the tragic human cost of the explosion, the resulting oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico continues to pollute and degrade the vital ecosystems in the Gulf and the surrounding coastal regions. We are only beginning to feel the massive environmental toll of the spill, which is likely to devastate an environment that is the backbone of the South Louisiana economy and on which thousands of individuals depend for their livelihood. We must stand in solidarity with the people of the Gulf Coast region. We must work to limit the impact of the spill, clean up the damage that has already been done, and hold the responsible parties accountable. The coastal environment and culture of south Louisiana are national treasures. We must work day and night to ensure that the damage endured is not irreparable.

Again, I extend my deepest condolences to the family of the individuals who were tragically killed in the explosion. The thoughts of our Nation are with them as they grieve the